

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #87A-18 Building Date: 19th c., 1915
Building Name: Black Swamp Farm
Location: 16815 Milltown Landing Road

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good-Fair/Inaccessible

Description

Black Swamp farm is a complex of farm buildings set far back and to the south of Milltown Landing Road. The oldest barn, north of the present complex, was destroyed in recent years. The house is a two-and-one-half-story front-gable frame house, with principal entrance in the third bay of the four-bay north gable end. Across this north gable end is a one-story porch with Tuscan columns. The central bay of the three-bay west facade consists of a projecting cross-gable, cantilevered at second and third story. The cornices of the house are boxed with crown molding, and are returned at the gable ends. The siding is plain board painted white. Windows are 1/1 double hung sash, with plain board surrounds painted dark green. The roof is of asphalt shingle. The oldest building remaining in the complex is a gable-roofed stable southwest of the house. Its sills are made of large hand-hewn timbers, but its superstructure is of circular-sawn vertical boards. The roof is of wooden shake, and has a cupola centered at the ridge. There is another large tobacco barn, probably twentieth century, but incorporating some older materials, at the top of a hill to the northwest.

Significance

Black Swamp farm represents a plantation complex which dates back to the early nineteenth century, when several tracts were farmed by the Rawlings, Turner and Cage families. By the second half of the nineteenth century, 235 acres had been consolidated by James J. Rawlings; his farm was known as Cold Brook. Like many other Prince George's County planters, Rawlings must have fallen into financial difficulties in the 1870's; his farm was sold by the county Sheriff to his wife, Martha Wilson Rawlings, and it passed after her death to their sons. For the first third of this century, this farm on the Black Swamp Creek was the home of L. Marbury Rawlings. In 1915, possibly after his parents' home was destroyed by fire, the present dwelling house was built. The new dwelling stood in a complex of old farm buildings; the oldest barn stood some 300 yards to the north of the house, and an old but rebuilt stable stood southwest of the house. The farm remained in the Rawlings family until 1970. Today only a few timbers can be seen from the oldest barn. The 1915 house is a modest reminder of the earlier plantation dwelling, surrounded as it is with functional farm buildings, the most notable of which is the interesting and picturesque rebuilt stable.

Acreage: 126.96 acres

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Black Swamp Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 16815 Milltown Landing Road ___ not for publication

city, town Aquasco ___ vicinity of congressional district 4

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| ___ district | ___ public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | ___ museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | ___ unoccupied | ___ commercial | ___ park |
| ___ structure | ___ both | ___ work in progress | ___ educational | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| ___ site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | ___ entertainment | ___ religious |
| ___ object | ___ in process | ___ yes: restricted | ___ government | ___ scientific |
| | ___ being considered | ___ yes: unrestricted | ___ industrial | ___ transportation |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no | ___ military | ___ other: |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Emanuel Orlick

street & number 16815 Milltown Landing Road telephone no.:

city, town Aquasco, state and zip code MD. 20613

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5400

street & number Main Street folio 927

city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 ___ federal ___ state ☒ county ___ local

depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale, state MD. 20737

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #87A-18

Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☒ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Black Swamp farm is a complex of farm buildings set far back and to the south of Milltown Landing Road, accessible by a long unpaved lane. The oldest barn, north of the present complex, was destroyed in recent years, and only a few timbers can be seen today.

The house is a two-and-one-half-story front-gable frame house, with principal entrance in the third bay of the four-bay north gable end. Across this north gable end is a one-story porch with Tuscan columns. The central bay of the three-bay west facade consists of a projecting cross-gable (tower) cantilevered at second and third story. The cornices of the house are boxed with crown molding, and are returned at the gable ends. The siding is plain board painted white. Windows are 1/1 double hung sash, with plain board surrounds painted dark green. The roof is of asphalt shingle and there is a stove chimney at the rear in the west plane of the roof.

The oldest building remaining in the complex is a gable roofed stable southwest of the house. Its sills are made of large hand-hewn timbers, but its superstructure is of circular-sawn vertical boards. The roof is of wooden shake, and there is a cupola centered at the ridge.

Southeast of the house is a twentieth century tobacco barn. There is another large tobacco barn, probably twentieth century, but incorporating some older materials, at the top of a hill to the northwest.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#87A-18

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | | | Local History |

Specific dates 19th c., 1915

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Black Swamp farm represents a plantation complex which dates back to the early nineteenth century, when the tracts Cold Brook, Trenant and Cox Hays were farmed by the Rawlings, Turner and Cage families.¹ By the second half of the nineteenth century, 235 acres had been consolidated by James J. Rawlings; in the post-Civil War period, his farm was known as Cold Brook.² Like many other Prince George's County planters, Rawlings must have fallen into financial difficulties in the 1870's, for a writ of fieri facias (confiscation of property in order to satisfy a judgment against him) was issued against him in 1878. His farm was sold by the county Sheriff to Rawlings' wife, Martha Wilson Rawlings,³ and it passed after her death to their sons, J. Howe, James William and L. Marbury Rawlings. For the first third of this century, this farm on the Black Swamp Creek was the home of L. Marbury Rawlings. In 1915, possibly after his parents' home was destroyed by fire, the present dwelling house was built.⁴ The new dwelling stood in a complex of old farm buildings; the oldest barn stood some 300 yards to the north of the house, and an old but rebuilt stable stood a short distance southwest of the house. Several other barns were built during this century; the farm remained in the Rawlings family until 1970.

Today only a few timbers can be seen from the oldest barn, which was destroyed in recent years. The 1915 house is a modest reminder of the earlier plantation dwelling, surrounded as it is with functional farm buildings, the most notable of which is the interesting and picturesque rebuilt stable.

Notes

¹ Prince George's County Tax Assessments; Prince George's County Deeds JBB #5:420.

² Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1880's.

³ Prince George's County Deed HB #14:319.

⁴ Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1912-1920; Prince George's County Deed #164:179; Will WTD #3:302.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #87A-18

Cf. Chain of Title
Cf. Notes, Item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 126.96 acres

Tax Map 174, p. 34

Quadrangle name Lower Marlboro, MD. Section G

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historianorganization Historic Preservation Commissiondate September 1985street & number c/o County Planning Div., M-NCPPCtelephone 952-3521city or town Upper Marlboro,state MD. 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

PG #87A-18

1705045635

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Black Swamp Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South of Milltown Landing Road

CITY, TOWN

Aquasco

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Prince George's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES RESTRICTED
☒ YES UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☒ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Eugene E. Pitrof

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

14708 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Prince George's County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house does not appear to be particularly old-probably having been built ca. 1900. However, the outbuildings are especially notable. These include several hewn-framed sheds, cribs, etc., with wooden shingle roofs, and a "wing-shaped" tobacco barn with a steep, center section with shed-roof "wings" flaring out from the eaves on both sides. The gable end has old rough weatherboards and a louvered vent, and a small doorway below this.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The outbuildings are some of the best seen in this area of Southern Prince George's County-particularly the tobacco barn.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

6/11/74

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Chain of Title

Black Swamp Farm
P.G. #87A-18

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| #5400:927 30 April 1981 Deed | Eugene E. Pitrof to Emanuel and Agnes W. Orlick; 126.96 acres in Aquasco District; same which grantor acquired by #3802:593. |
| #3802:593 5 Feb. 1970 Deed | Robert Hugh and Thelma H. Rawlings to Eugene E. Pitrof, 126.96 acres in Aquasco District; same property described in #164:179. |
| #3754:627 23 Aug. 1969 Deed | Lewis (or Louis) Howe Rawlings, to Robert Hugh Rawlings; 126.96 acres in Aquasco District; all the grantor's interest, being the residue of the land conveyed in #164:179. |
| #1217:85 March 1950 Deed | James Wilson and Grace E. Rawlings to Robert Hugh Rawlings; 144 acres in Aquasco District; same property described in #164:179 and #401:467 and devised in WTD #3:302, the life interest of James William Rawlings, now deceased, having been vested in his children, one of whom is a grantor of this deed. |
| #976:361 8 Aug. 1946 Deed | Robert Hugh and Thelma H. Rawlings to James Wilson and Grace E. Rawlings, unmarried (a one-half undivided interest); the grantor's rights in a tract in the 8th Election District as described in #164:179. |
| #401:467 25 Nov. 1933 Deed | George I. and Maria T. Gardiner to James William Rawlings, James Wilson Rawlings, Louis Howe Rawlings and Robert Hugh Rawlings; parcel in 8th Election District, same as described in #164:179; this deed conveyed property to James William Rawlings for his natural life with remainder to James Wilson, Louis Howe and Robert Hugh Rawlings, heirs of L. Marbury Rawlings, deceased; same which Martha E. Rawlings acquired by HB #14:319 and same which grantors acquired by deed immediately prior hereto. |
| #401:467 25 Nov. 1933 Deed | James William Rawlings, widower, to George I. Gardiner; all the grantor's interest in a tract in the 8th Election District; same which grantor acquired as tenant in common with L. Marbury Rawlings by #164:179. |

- 2 -

WTD #3:302
23 May 1933
Will

Estate of L. Marbury Rawlings who died 1 May 1933; to his nephew James Wilson, Lewis Howe and Robert Hugh Rawlings, the deceased devised one-half of a farm in Aquasco; same which was conveyed to the deceased and James William Rawlings, as tenants in common, in the division of the estate of their mother, Martha E. Rawlings.

#164:179
17 May 1921
Deed

J. Howe and Emma G. Rawlings to James William and L. Marbury Rawlings as tenants in common; 145 acres in Aquasco; all parties to deed were heirs of Martha E. Rawlings, deceased, and had decided among themselves on a division of her real estate; same property which deceased acquired by HB #14:319.

HB #14:319
24 Jan. 1879
Deed

James Wilson, sheriff, (by writ of fieri facias) to Martha E. Rawlings, wife of James H. Rawlings; 235 acres including 164 acres, parts of Cold Brook, Tenant, et al, where "James H. Rawlings now resides", part of the real estate of the late John T. Rawlings.

MILLTOWN LANDING ROAD

CROOK RD.

BENJAMIN F. RICHARDS
772/257,837/18 1169/349
29.00A
P. 16

5162 / 203
2.70A
P. 47

O-S

87A-19

BENJAMIN E. RICHARDS
1959 / 344
17.04A.
P. 17

CHARLES W. ELLIS
3126/135
105.00A.
P. 18

EMANUEL ORLICK
5400/ 927
126.96A.
P. 34

87A-18

M.175 - P.7

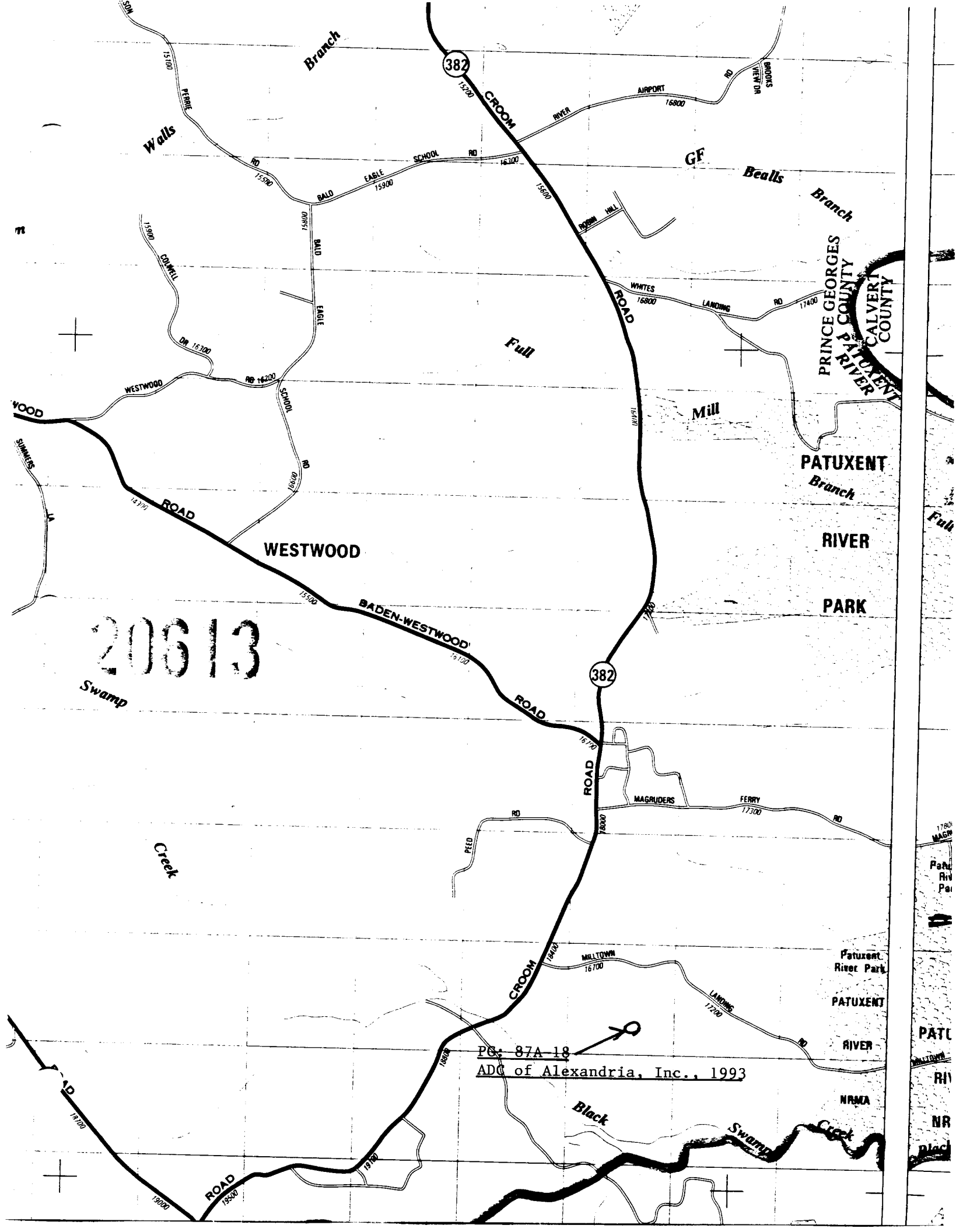
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O-S

BLACK

SWAMP CR.

PG: 87A-18



Branch

382

CROOM

AIRPORT

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Bealls

Branch

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY
CALVERT COUNTY
PATUXENT RIVER

PATUXENT
Branch

RIVER

PARK

20613

Swamp

Creek

PG: 87A-18
ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1993

Black

Swamp

Patuxent
River Park

PATUXENT

RIVER

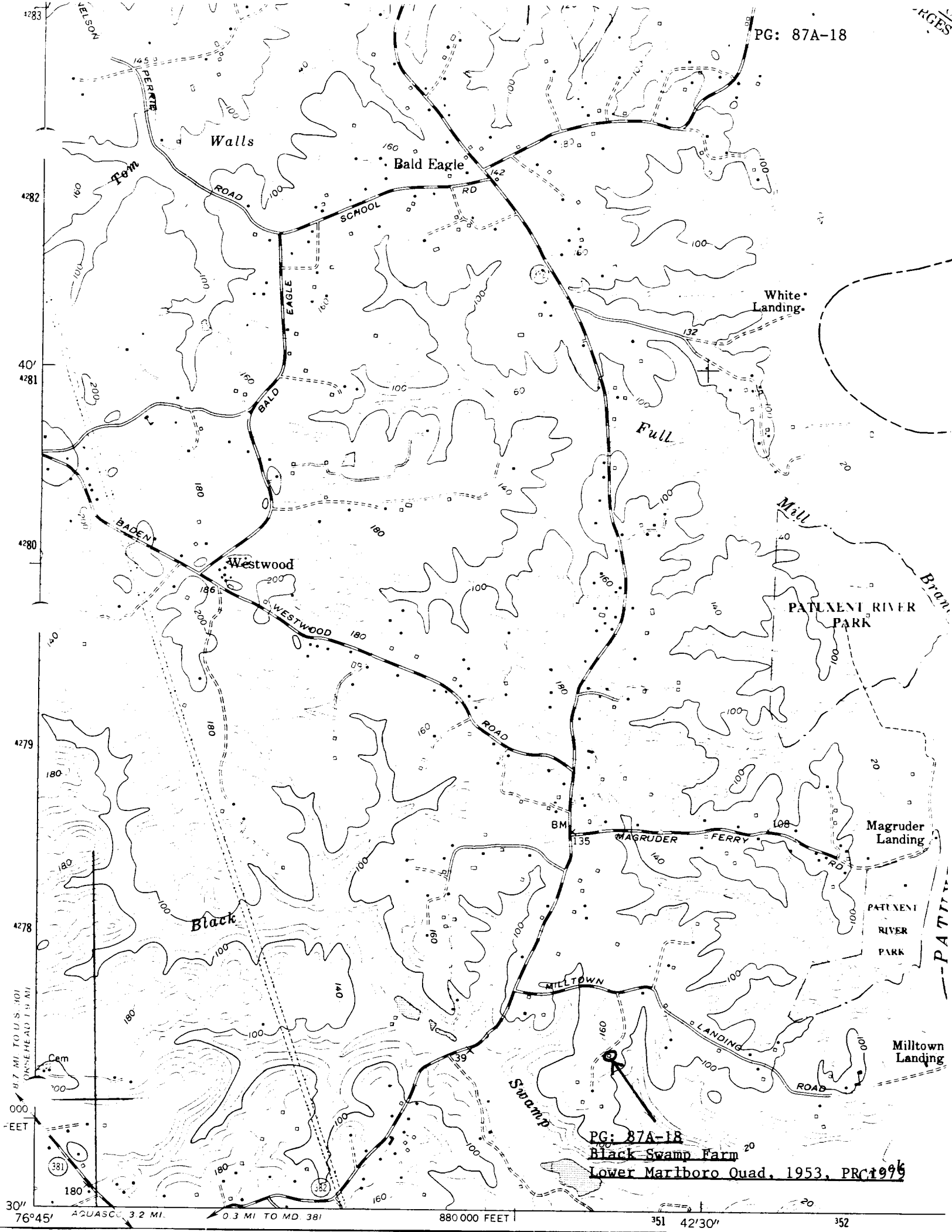
NRMA

PATUXENT

RIVER

NRMA

place



PG: 87A-18
Black Swamp Farm
Lower Marlboro Quad, 1953, PRC 1996



P.G. #87A-18

Stable at Black Swamp Farm

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

Northwest elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



NAME BLACK SWAMP FARM - TOBACCO BARN (PITROF PROP)

LOCATION S. OF MILLTOWN LANDING RD., AQUASCO, MD.

FACADE SW

PG: 87A-18

PHOTO TAKEN 6/11/74

M. RUDYER



NAME BLACK SWAMP FARM (PITROF PROP.) 20th CEN. HOUSE

LOCATION S. OF MILLTOWN LANDING RD., AQUASCO, MD.

FACADE N

PG. 87A-18

PHOTO TAKEN 6/11/74

M. RUSCHER